

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Walnut Ridge Friends Meeting House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number County Roads 800 N and 900 W

N/A not for publication

city, town Carthage X vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Rush code 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Walnut Ridge Friends Meeting

street & number R.F.D. 1, County Roads 800 N and 900 W

city, town Carthage X vicinity of

state Indiana 46115

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rush County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Rushville

state Indiana 46173

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in Rush County at the northeast corner of the intersection of County Roads 800 N and 900 W, the Walnut Ridge Friends Meetinghouse is an example of Italianate architecture in its most simple and austere form. Its unadorned, segmentally arched windows, its plain projecting verges, moderately pitched gable roof, and its solidly proportioned, octagonal bay link it, stylistically, to the simple, honest people who worshiped there.

The meetinghouse is a single story brick structure, originally rectangular in plan with six bays in the principal (south) facade, and three bays in the east and west facades. The interior was originally one large room which was divided down the middle by movable shutters which segregated the congregation by sex. The main entrance to the room was by way of two doors in the south facade. The original building has undergone several modifications which reflect the changing needs of the congregation.

In 1890, the principal facade was altered through the addition of a projecting octagonal bay. This bay, containing a vestibule and a new main entrance, replaced the two main doors located in the original facade. At the same time, the interior of the meetinghouse was remodeled into two rooms. The larger room was known as the Quarterly Meeting Room. An aisle divided each section of benches and the floor slanted north toward the rostrum. The room featured a paneled tin ceiling, a feature also found in the smaller room which was used for worship by the local congregation. On the north side of this smaller room was a raised platform with cane-bottom armchairs for the minister and secretary.

The exterior walls feature brick laid in common bond, a practice which was carried over on the octagonal bay. The windows are set in segmentally arched openings which feature radiating brick voussoirs and plain stone sills. The inside windows are double hung sash units with 12 over 12 glazing; the two windows located in the octagonal bay feature six over six glazing.

The main entrance is located in the center of the south wall of the octagonal bay. The main doors are set in a segmentally arched opening which features a brick radiating voussoir and a plain brick surround. The door architrave features a plain reveal with recessed double transom panels, the upper panel containing multiple lights. The main door is a double leaf, paneled unit which is painted white. It is reached by way of stairs of stone and brick construction. The stairs are bracketed by decorative wrought iron stair rails, highlighted by iron newel posts.

The west facade contains two windows and a door, the latter located in the northern-most bay. The door opening was originally used as a window. The door is similar in design to the main entrance but is a single leaf unit. The east facade at one time mirrored the west facade but has since lost its northern-most window unit.

The north facade at one time resembled the south facade but has been partially obscured by the closing of some window or door openings and the addition, in 1976, of a brick fellowship room.

The meetinghouse features plain projecting verges and a cornice fascia trim. The moderately pitched gable roof is articulated by the projecting hip roof and cupola of the octagonal bay. The roof is pierced by a flush flue chimney on the north wall and by an exterior chimney on the east facade. Both chimneys are of brick.

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The current meetinghouse interior reflects a remodeling which occurred in the summer of 1972. The vestibule was divided, the south part used as an entrance room and the re-finished tables used for literature, and chairs placed in the north room. Double doors were placed at the entrance into both the big room and the small room.

The local meeting room was divided into Sunday School rooms with a hall between. One of the older Sunday School rooms is used for a nursery and the other, with the library, is used for the Pastor's study room. A door opening from the former local meeting room leads directly into the big room (Quarterly Meeting Room).

The former Quarterly Meeting Room's metal ceiling was painted white, the rostrum enlarged, and benches placed at the back for a choir. An altar made to fit the curvature of the rostrum was placed at the front. Wood paneling covers the walls of this room and the vestibule. Electric light fixtures were installed and an outside door opened to the west. The former benches were refinished and used for seating.

Located just northeast of the meeting house is a brick outbuilding which dates from the construction of the meeting house or its early remodeling. The structure is rectangular, one bay by two bays, with two windows in the east facade and a centrally placed door in the south facade. The window and door surrounds are similar to those found on the meetinghouse, as is the roof and eaves construction. The door architrave features a blind transom panel and no side panels. The building has undergone extensive alteration, reflecting its changing uses. The north (right) window on the east facade has been obscured by brick infill of its upper third, and the creation of a large square door opening which has obliterated the lower two-thirds of the original window. The south (left) window is partially boarded up and retains none of its glazing. The structure is currently used for the storage of garden equipment.

The rectangular (1976) addition is layed out at right angles to the meeting house and is connected to it by way of an enclosed passageway containing two windows, one on the east and one on the west wall. The exterior walls feature multi-toned brick of stretcher bond construction laid on a cinder block foundation. The windows are double hung aluminum sash units with one over one glazing set in plain surrounds. There are two windows and one door located in the east and west facades. In the west facade the door is located in the center bay; in the east facade it is located in the south bay. There are two windows located in the north facade on either side of a centrally placed external chimney. The two doors are single leaf composite paneled construction with multiple glazing in the upper portion. Both doors feature brick and concrete stoops, the west stoop being further articulated by the addition of cast iron stair rails bracketing the stairs.

The interior is one large room with wall-to-wall carpeting and wood veneer wall paneling. The north wall is dominated by a large fireplace faced in rough cut stone veneer. A kitchenette is located against the south wall next to the entranceway to the meeting house proper.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1866, 1890 **Builder Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Walnut Ridge Meeting House is significant as the meeting house of a congregation which was responsible for early settlement and education in the Walnut Ridge area. As the site of the first Friends Meeting in Rush County, it served as a seedbed for other Quaker organizations which were to follow.

The first settlers in the Walnut Ridge area were Quakers from North Carolina and Virginia, who arrived in 1821 or 1822 after the area was opened for settlement. In 1827, after the arrival of additional groups of Quakers, the Walnut Ridge Meeting was established. It was an important influence in the area, first as a Monthly, and later as a Quarterly Meeting of the Society of Friends.

For some time, this was the only Friends Meeting in the area; however, the steady population growth soon led to expansion, and ultimately to the establishment of further Monthly Meetings throughout Rush County. Local histories suggest that the Quakers were the dominant religious group in Ripley Township.

The Walnut Ridge Meeting established one of the first schools in Ripley Township in about 1831, which continued until the late 1880s. The Quakers encouraged blacks to settle in Ripley Township and attend their school. This probably explains the relatively high concentration of blacks in the area in the 19th century. For example, according to U.S. Census data, in 1870 the black population was 339, compared to a white population of 1,502 in Ripley Township. The township in Rush County with the next highest number of blacks that year was Rushville, with 47, where the white population was 3,280. There are few blacks in the township today.

The present meeting house is the third on this site. The first was a log structure built in 1826 or 1827. In 1840, this building was inadequate for the expanding membership, and a frame meeting house was built. This second meeting house burned on April 12, 1864, during the Civil War. It was thought locally that the Walnut Ridge Quakers were involved in the Underground Railroad, and that the meeting house was burned in retaliation by the Knights of the Golden Circle, who were Southern sympathizers.

A new brick meeting house, the present structure, was built in 1866. This building was originally rectangular in plan with separate exterior doors for the male and female members of the congregation. The interior was one large room which could be divided by movable shutters located down the middle of the room. The meeting house was extensively modified by the addition of an octagonal bay in 1890, which contained a vestibule. At the same time, the interior of the building was remodeled into two rooms, the Quarterly meeting room and a smaller room for the local congregation's worship.

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The building remained essentially unaltered after 1890 until 1972, when a second remodeling of the meeting house interior occurred. This involved the division of the local meeting room into Sunday School classrooms with a hall in between. In the summer of 1976, a brick fellowship room was added to the north side of the meeting house. This room, which contains kitchen facilities for group functions, represents the major exterior alteration to the meeting house since the 1890 remodeling.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 4 acres

Quadrangle name Carthage, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	1	8	8	5	0	4	3	9	8	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Loyall J. Hunt

organization Committee for Walnut Ridge Meeting date November, 1978

street & number P.O. Box 122 telephone

city or town Carthage state Indiana 46115

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. A. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date January 24, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Gary, A. L., and Thomas, E. B., eds. Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana. Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1921.

McDaniel, Ethel Hittle. "The Contribution of the Society of Friends to Education in Indiana." Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1939.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, U. S. Census of Population, 1850, 1870, 1980.

"Walnut Ridge Friends Meeting." Rushville Daily Republican, September 23, 1977, p. 6.

Walnut Ridge Sesquicentennial Committee. "History of Walnut Ridge Friends Meeting, 1822-1977."

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Beginning on the north right-of-way line of County Road 800 North, at the Southwest corner of Section 23, Township 15 North, Range 8 East; thence 429 feet east; thence 412.5 feet north; thence 429 feet west, to the east right-of-way of County Road 900 West; thence south along that line 412.5 feet to the place of beginning.